

City of Eufaula Biodiesel Project

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) – Energy, Weatherization and Technology Division (EWT) is partnering with the City of Eufaula to demonstrate the production of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil for use in city vehicles and school buses.

Originally, the project manager, Bill Clark, collected waste vegetable oil from area restaurants. Now he has a steady supply from a chicken processing plant owned by Keystone Foods near Eufaula. This plant generates 70,000 gallons of relatively uniform, high quality waste vegetable oil a year and allows the City of Eufaula to take as much as they need at no cost.

The estimated cost of producing the biodiesel is about \$0.80 per gallon. The city produces about 1,000 gallons a week, or about 50,000 gallons per year, and blends it 50:50 with regular diesel. This equates to a \$50,000 per year savings for the city.

The biodiesel blend is used to fuel municipal vehicles such as garbage trucks and equipment such as backhoes.

The city is currently working toward achieving American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) certification for the biodiesel. Once certification is achieved, the city plans to use the fuel in its school buses. This will mean not only savings in fuel costs for the school system but also cleaner air for the students. Exhaust emissions from biodiesel are much cleaner than those from diesel fuel.

The Mayor of Eufaula, the Honorable Jay Jaxon, notified ADECA in September 2005 that the biodiesel project was a great benefit to the city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when diesel fuel was in short supply in the Eufaula area. Fortunately, the city was able to supplement their limited diesel supply by blending with biodiesel and thus, was assured an adequate supply of fuel for fire trucks, ambulances and public works vehicles.